

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated August 24, 2010 and the Advisory Action dated January 5, 2011 have been carefully considered. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 1 is in this application.

The previously presented claim was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,368,015 to Wilk. Applicant submits that the teaching of this reference does not teach or suggest the invention defined by the present claim.

The claims have been amended to positively recite a stereoscopic laparoscope to convert and store stereoscopic image information for providing a stereoscopic vision. As described on page 1, lines 3-12 of the present application, the present invention provides a stereoscopic laparoscope in which dual cameras are arranged in parallel at tip ends of respective supporting rods to achieve a stereoscopic vision. In contrast, Wilk discloses producing 2D images as described at Col. 3, lines 35 -48. As described at page 6, lines 10 -20 of the present application, the present invention has the advantageous effect of realizing stereoscopic vision similar to that of a human.

In the present invention, the left and right flexible tubes are automatically driven within a predetermined angle range via an actuator according to electric signals generated from a manipulator to provide stereoscopic vision of a relatively wide area of the affected part rapidly and accurately. In contrast, Wilk teaches manual manipulation of a bifurcated rigid support member in which prongs at each end are adjusted by a spring actuator after extending from a trocar sleeve or a tension cable. Accordingly, Wilk does not teach automatic adjustment of the spacing between left and right cameras to allow the cameras to be automatically adjusted to take stereoscopic images from all directions during laparoscopic surgery. Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious in view of Wilk.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



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